



MISSOULA NEIGHBORHOODS
Community Forum Report
City Council Chambers, 140 W. Pine
May 24, 2012 at 7:00 pm
Moderator, Greg Gullickson

Captain John Mullan – Absent
Farviews/Pattee Canyon – Ray Aten
Franklin to the Fort – Mark McMillin
Grant Creek – Absent
Heart of Missoula – Bill Flanery
Lewis & Clark – Greg Gullickson
Lower Rattlesnake – Absent
Miller Creek – Absent
Moose Can Gully – Lyle Geurts
Northside/Westside – Casey Dunning

Riverfront – Absent
River Road – Robin Spaziani
Rose Park – Absent
South 39th – Cathy Deschamps
Southgate Triangle – Absent
University District – Dave Chrismon
Upper Rattlesnake – Doug Grimm

City Council Liaison – Jon Wilkins
Neighborhood Liaison – Absent

OTHERS PRESENT:

Marty Rehbein, Cristal Dyer

QUORUM:

A quorum was present.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA:

The agenda was approved.

APPROVE MEETING MINUTES:

The minutes for [April 26, 2012](#) were approved as submitted.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

None

PRESENTATIONS:

USPS Representative – Neighborhood Mailings - Tammi Loshesky

Margie Snook, USPS Customer Service Supervisor stated there are several options to consider for affordable neighborhood mailings and they include:

- Permit purchase – the cost is \$190 (Missoula County owns one)
- Flat Rate - Every Door Direct mailing is known as a saturation mailing and it covers two USPS routes. If the item is sent out as a flat (in place of a letter) the cost is 14.05 cents per item and this fee covers the whole route, and there may be three routes to an area.
- Saturation mailing is offered through the bulk mail room (BMEU) and this is the option that would be the most affordable for neighborhood mailings.

Tammi Loshesky – USPS Bulk Mail Tech stated she works with the mail permits and distributed a [USPS policy](#) handout for discussion, and she addressed the price per piece breakdown on Page 3. She feels the best option is to purchase a permit under a nonprofit status which allows affordable postage for flats, letters and post cards.

The last three pages include an application and upon submittal it allows items to be sent at a nonprofit price. There is no fee to apply for a permit and she discussed the application requirements. She noted each neighborhood council will need to apply for a separate permit. The cost will be 14.20 cents per piece at the nonprofit status.

Ms. Loshesky said the County purchased a permit. This option would allow the neighborhoods to have their mailings printed through the County printer with their permit imprint on each piece. This option would allow a substantial savings.

Ms. Rehbein, City Clerk mentioned the City currently has a bulk permit separate from the County and there is an option to allow the neighborhoods to utilize the bulk permit.

Ms. Snook agreed and noted the USPS requires a letter authorizing the neighborhoods to use the City bulk permit.

Mr. Chrismon asked what the cost would be by utilizing the City bulk permit.

The Forum discussed the mailing details and the nonprofit criteria. For additional information Ms. Loshesky can be reached at 329-2252 Monday through Friday from 12:30 pm to 6:30 pm.

Office of Works and Grants – Upcoming workshop and non motorized transportation data – Ann Cundy

This item will be discussed at a later date.

NEIGHBORHOOD PROJECT FUNDS – SMALL GRANTS RECOMMENDED BY THE LEADERSHIP TEAM

- Missoula Symphony in the Park

Mr. Flanery stated the Heart of Missoula Leadership Team discussed and approved a small grant for \$500 because they felt it is a quality event that should be supported.

Mr. Flanery moved to approve the Missoula Symphony in the Park grant for \$500.

Mr. Chrismon seconded the motion.

The motion was approved anonymously.

- Paint the Orange Street Underpass

Ms. Deschamps asked what is the purpose of the paint?

Ms. Rehbein said there is a nice mural on the outside of the Orange Street Bridge and this proposal is to paint the inside walls of the tunnel. A few years back a gentleman painted a mural on the inside wall of the underpass, and he maintained it for several years. For an unknown reason, he is unable to continue the maintenance and the tunnel walls have been overrun with graffiti.

Jason Pignanelli who resides on the Northside has requested funding to cover the graffiti. The Business Improvement District (BID) supports a group known as the "Clean Team" and they work the downtown area to keep it looking nice and clean. The "Clean Team" will walk through the underpass tunnel on a regular basis to pick up trash and litter that accumulates. The BID will donate funding for paint and supplies to the Police Department Graffiti Task Force (PDGTF).

The Parks & Recreation Department will provide volunteers to perform the initial painting and they will assist the PDGTF to maintain it. The Police Department is contributing \$250 for the painting project. The Montana Department of Transportation (DOT) is responsible for the structure and they will match this grant for \$500 upon approval. The BID will meet next month and they will be asked to contribute the remaining \$250.

The Orange Street underpass tunnel requires a lot of work to make it look decent.

Mr. Chrismon moved to approve the grant for \$500 to purchase paint supplies for the Orange Street Underpass.

Mr. Gullickson seconded the motion.

The motion passed unanimously.

- Grizzly Place Townhomes - landscaping

Ms. Deschamps said last year the Forum approved a grant request for the Grizzly Place Townhomes landscape. She asked if there are other grants to consider who have not received past funding. She feels other applications should be considered before approving a second request.

Mr. McMillin suggests discussing the Grizzly Townhome and the Trail Lighting requests and the Forum could approve one now, and approve the other one at the next fiscal year when more funding is available.

The Forum asked Ms. Rehbein if the reallocated funds are available to help fund all of the requests on the agenda. Ms. Rehbein replied yes.

Mr. Aten said the request is for the townhouse common area and is a public space and is not restricted by the residents who reside in the townhouse.

Mr. Aten moved to approve a small grant for the Grizzly Townhomes Landscaping project.

Mr. Gullickson seconded the motion.

The motion passed unanimously.

- Trail Lighting – Motion sensor lights along the Milwaukee Trail

Ms. Spaziani said the Milwaukee Trail was installed and a piece of the trail runs through a neighborhood causing the neighborhood to experience theft and vandalism issues. The neighbors and the Police Department have been discussing options to help alleviate the problem. The trail is dark at night and increased lighting (motion sensors) was recommended to help lessen the criminal activity.

Mr. Wilkins asked if the motion sensors will be installed on private homes along the trail.

She replied yes, because the trail goes on a street between housing and there is no other options to install them.

Mr. Schmidt asked who will be responsible for the motion sensor maintenance and light bulb replacement.

Mr. Flanery clarified that they are requesting funding to purchase the motion sensors and asked if the residents should have some responsibility to purchase and maintain the motion sensors.

Ms. Spaziani said the area was a cul-de-sac before the trail was installed and the residents did not have theft or vandalism issues. The residents did not want the trail to come down their street and they feel the City should be responsible for purchasing the sensors and provide maintenance.

Mr. Schmidt does not oppose the request, but the motion sensors need bulb replacement and they use electricity. He does not feel there is enough information to make a decision until more details are provided.

Ms. Deschamps noted there is a trail that runs through her neighborhood and some residents including herself purchased and installed motion lights on their homes at their own expense.

Mr. Wilkins said the motion lights need to be wired into the home and this may require an extra expense. This is an issue that needs to be considered.

Mr. Aten said the Rails-to-Trails Conservancy group claims trail traffic increase tends to decrease criminal activity.

Mr. Aten agrees that there is not enough information to approve the small grant request at this time, and feels they Forum needs additional information.

The Forum agreed and Ms. Rehbein clarified the list of additional information that the Forum is requesting.

- Motion Sensor installation costs and who will fund them
- Who is responsibility for electricity costs
- Who will provide light bulb replacement and maintenance
- What are the issues that the neighbors are facing

Ms. Deschamps asked if anyone knows of other grant requests.

Ms. Rehbein said she knows of one other neighborhood who will be requesting a small grant.

The Forum moved to table the request and revisit when more information is provided.

NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL AND COMMUNITY FORUM:

Bike/Walk/Bus Week – Mark McMillan, Pom Fountain and Steve Schmidt

Mr. McMillan stated he attended the Bike/Walk/Bus week and volunteered to table the event. The event was successful and they provided information to people and played the penny toss game.

Sunday Streets – Call for volunteers

Mr. Wilkins, Mr. Chrismon, Mr. Aten, Mr. Grimm, Mr. Stevens, Mr. McMillan, Mr. Flanery and Mr. Gullickson volunteered to attend and table the Sunday Streets event scheduled on Sunday, June 3rd from 10:00 am to 4:00 pm. They discussed the details and equipment that they will need.

REPORTS

Staff Report – Cristal Dyer

Ms. Dyer said the Watercolor training is scheduled for June 16th and there are openings for anyone who is interested. The class includes creating flyers, web design newsletters and basic email operations and she will email the detailed course list to the neighborhoods.

Neighborhood Council Reports

Upper Rattlesnake – Doug Grimm reported the Upper Rattlesnake is Missoula's best neighborhood. They had a spring meeting and discussed possible issues with the Van Buren Interchange traffic circles, Rattlesnake Bear Aware & Apple Share Project, Mountain Line bus service, a possible new footbridge that crosses Rattlesnake Creek, bylaw changes and the amazing women in the Upper Rattlesnake valley that will become televised.

Captain John Mullan – Steve Schmidt reported the Captain John Mullan is the Best neighborhood in Montana - They had their annual garage sale followed by a BBQ and 181 homes participated.

River Road – Robin Spaziani reported they met and discussed the Milwaukee Trail lighting issues, and a possible Sunday Streets event in their neighborhood next fall.

South 39th – Cathy Deschamps reported South 39th is the Best neighborhood without bears -- no report.

Heart of Missoula – Bill Flanery reported the Heart of Missoula is the most unique neighborhood in the center of town - The Leadership Team met and discussed their neighborhood council meeting agenda which will meet on Monday June 11th at 7:30 pm located at MCT.

Farviews/Pattee Canyon – Ray Aten reported Lewis & Clark is the best elevated neighborhood in Missoula -- no report.

Lewis & Clark – Greg Gullickson – no report.

University District – Dave Chrismon said the University District is the best educated neighborhood in Missoula -- no report.

Franklin to the Fort – Mark McMillin reported their leadership team met last Tuesday but he did not attend. They discussed their social event and they will organize an essay contest to decide who has the best neighborhood in Missoula.

Moose Can Gully – Lyle Geurts reported their spring meeting is scheduled on June 5th and will be a nature hike lead by 4th graders and a picnic will follow.

Northside/Westside – Casey Dunning said the Northside/Westside neighborhood has the most breweries - He reported they are discussing their mid July block party, Sunday Streets event on Toole Ave., 1000 Gardens Pilot Project and they continue their communications with the Poverello Center.

City Council Jon Wilkins resides in the Lewis & Clark neighborhood and reports they have the best swimming hole in town.

The City Council is discussing the City budget and citizen opinions are welcome, zoning change notification notices to the public, accessory dwelling units in single family neighborhoods, urban deer issues, 2 cent fuel tax and the coal train transportation through Missoula and other areas.

Alderman Wilkins was asked for the status regarding the Brooks Street speed limit changes. He said the council has not received the study results report, but he will gather what information there is and report to the Forum at a later date.

He stated the 2 cent per gallon gas tax increase is an idea to help fund new and replacement sidewalks in the City. The funding is a concern and the council has discussed other options. For further questions or concerns contact Doug Harby, Public Works at 552-6091.

Mr. Grimm asked what the cost has been for meeting notification mailings in the Upper Rattlesnake. Ms. Rehbein said her office has that information and she will provide it.

Mr. Grimm thought their mailings cost was around \$600. There were 73 people who attended their neighborhood meeting, and the average mailing cost was approximately \$8.00 per person. He is wondering if the mailings for meetings are worth the tax payers' money.

Alderman Wilkins said yes it is worth the cost. Most neighborhood councils are lucky to get 15 people to attend their meetings. He noted the Leadership teams are responsible for what the community is going to get. He feels the money is well spent for the neighborhoods.

Mr. Aten stated there will be a Long range Transportation Plan meeting located at the County fairgrounds and he encourages everyone to attend.

Ms. Rehbein stated the meeting is important because the community's transportation amenities plan is what gets the funding. Once the plan is in place, that is what is going to be built and this is why it is important for people to attend the meetings.

Jeff Stevens will be the moderator for the June meeting.

Adjournment:

Meeting adjourned at 8:37 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Kelly Elam

Kelly Elam
City Clerk Office